

MODIS Technical Team Meeting
Thursday, September 5, 2002
Building 33, Room E 125

Vince Salomonson chaired the meeting. In attendance were Dorothy Hall, Steve Kempler, Barbara Conboy, Shaida Johnston, Wayne Esaias, Bill Barnes, Chris Justice, Skip Reber, Eric Vermote, Ed Masuoka, and Jack Xiong, with Yolanda Harvey taking the minutes.

1.0 Upcoming Events

- 34th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, October 10-19, 2002, Houston, TX (abstract deadline past)
- MODIS Outreach Workshop on Land Surface Radiation and Snow and Ice Products, October 21-22, 2002, Boston, MA
- EOS Investigator Working Group Meeting, November 18-20, Ellicott City, MD
- Pecora 15 & Land Satellite Information IV Symposium, Nov. 12-15, 2002, Denver, CO (abstract deadline past)

2.0 Meeting Minutes

2.1 General Discussion

Salomonson reintroduced the topic of product validation definitions. He said that the current proposal is to leave the definitions Beta, Provisional, and Validated as they were originally, but to add comments at the bottom that clarify what it means to be “Validated” in the MODIS world including the “Stages” of validation. This will meet the intents of the validation stages discussed at the Science Team meeting without having to go through another round of discussions about the words defining Beta, Provisional, etc. Justice said that he thinks things are changing in the community with a growing demand for validated products. Along those lines, he had a conversation with a couple of modelers 3-4 weeks ago who were very positive about the proposed validation approach.

Reber reported that at a recent ESDIS staff meeting, the topic came up about the process to be used for deletion of old data from the archives, and that the instrument teams and user working groups are supposed to be involved in this inquiry. Kempler said that John Moses contacted him and that he gave Moses his policy, which has been reviewed by the Science Team. Johnston asked whether all of the DAACs use the same policy, and Kempler said that he only knows about the GDAAC, not others. Reber said that he wanted to check with the instrument teams himself to make sure that they’re being contacted and are aware of the issue. Masuoka said that it may be that we are not at the point yet where all of the DAACs have to use the same deletion policy. Johnston replied that it would make sense to do so, though. Esaias reminded the group of the policy to not delete data that has been declared validated. Hall said that it is also confusing that there are so many different versions. Esaias said that TOMS only comes out with new versions about every six years. Kempler said that he’s only been contacted about old deleted data once, and it wasn’t really a problem. Salomonson asked where this leaves us. Reber said

that it is not immediately critical, but he wanted to make sure that the group is aware of the discussion and involved in some way. The group needs to decide if it is happy with the existing process, and at some point discuss it. Johnston asked how the group could get more involved if they wanted to, and Salomonson affirmed that we do want to be more involved because our data are involved.

Conboy encouraged each team to look at and update the Terra Data Products Handbook. Justice said we would get a better response if the team members were sent their individual product descriptions. Conboy said she would send out the individual descriptions to the Land team. Hall and Esaias said the Aqua Data Products Handbook was more up-to-date and asked for that version as well. Conboy agreed to send it as well.

2.2 Instrument Status

2.2.1 Aqua MODIS

Barnes reported that they are working on getting Santa Barbara to be able to work on the command problem – apparently there are some contract issues. Salomonson asked if the command problems had some physical explanation, and Barnes said no, they think there is a problem between a chip and the command processor.

2.2.2 Terra MODIS

Barnes reported no new issues with Terra MODIS.

2.3 DAAC

Kempler reported that there were some problems over the weekend, but didn't impact processing very much. Aqua forward processing is within hours of the leading edge, though there are some holes to fill. Terra forward processing is about 12 hours behind. Oceans is one day ahead of pushing data to MODAPS, and one day behind on the other side. He reported that a systems upgrade is almost finished. Kempler said that all Aqua data except for L1A has been declared provisional from first light; L1B is provisional from August 20th (revised later to be August 23). These distinctions were made to match up with geolocation, and Masuoka reported that Robert Wolfe is still evaluating geolocation. Johnston pointed out that even though his 250 m data is off, it is probably still ready to be declared provisional. Masuoka said that he will talk to him about it. Masuoka continued that with the new definitions, every thing is probably provisional, just from different dates. Kempler said that per the request from SeaWiFS, they found the first bad tape of high-level products, and are implementing a procedure of going back to the vendor and doing diagnostics. He said that the process isn't as smooth as he would like, and he said that they may have to go back to MODAPS for reprocessing. Masuoka said that Kempler should tell him what data is missing and he will look for it. Kempler said that he would, but he also needs to know what else is on that tape.

2.4 MODAPS

Masuoka reported that he had good news and less-good news about the Land reprocessing. The good news was that they need only five PGEs for the next science test. He said that Boston wants to make a new land sea mask, which would possibly conflict with the cloud mask, so they have to watch for a timing conflict. Johnston said that that

would be a great strain on the schedule and that it would affect a lot of other products. Masuoka said that it clearly needs more figuring out. Salomonson asked if they didn't want to use the old mask for Collection 4, and Justice said that they can do a lot better than the current one, and that it is being discussed within the Land group. He continued that he didn't think that they could make a decision yet, and would like to put off discussion for a while. Salomonson asked them to discuss the issue next week.

Masuoka reported that they still need to work out between Land and Atmospheres where start processing for Collection 4. If they started November 1 beginning with February 2000 data, and if Land wasn't ready at the end of November, they've talked about dropping data days at the beginning. He said that he wants to avoid creating holes by dropping days other than from the start. Masuoka said that he prefers to start with first light and go forward. Justice said that a Land group session is coming up during which they can discuss this. Masuoka said to Esaias that if Oceans joined Land and Atmospheres reprocessing, then they could optimize ingest for Collection 5. Masuoka said that there are some dead cycles that Oceans could take over, and Salomonson said that he would look into it.

2.5 Oceans

Esaias reported that Janet Campbell has agreed to edit the EOS Data Handbook will also put together a course outline for a mini-workshop on data, and Oregon State is doing something similar. Also, Oregon State has a new browse utility to unveil, and they are willing to cooperate with Robin Pfister.

2.6 Land

Justice reported that for the update to data product handbook, if the PIs could have their individual sections sent to them, it would probably increase the response level. He also said that they should have a listing of all products' validation status by early next week that Jeff Morissette put together. Salomonson asked Justice to send that list to him so that he can integrate it with everyone else's. Justice said that he would, and that he has asked Alfredo Huete and the rest of the team to send additional comparison materials to Salomonson. He continued that he is still looking for guidance on a data CD, and Salomonson said that it would be good if each discipline had a CD of its own to augment the MMDS CD. Justice said that he would start thinking about that. On the issue of sequencing of reprocessing, Justice said that he will report on that early next week.

2.7 Cryosphere

Hall reported that they have 15 days of Collection 4 test data, and they have been doing comparisons with earlier data and operation products. She said that they have some changes to make before the deadline, but so far things are looking good. Some areas of the maps are questionable, and they changed the thermal mask from 277 to 281. She concluded that the test data has been very useful.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 New Action Items

3.1.1. Science Team to update the Terra Data Products Handbook and submit edits and new gray scale imagery to Barbara Conboy within a few weeks.

3.1.2 Justice to get back to the Technical Team about whether the land-water mask will be changed.

3.2 Old Action Items

3.2.1 Technical team to discuss further the issue of predicted ephemeris data and how to improve it.

Status: Open.

Ed Masuoka and Robert Wolfe plan to meet with the Terra Flight Operations Team to see if they can run definitive ephemeris 2-4 times per day. The context for this issue is to provide better geolocation information for things like fire front tracking and similar issues.